

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 03005 221753Z
ACTION EPA-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-06 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00
ERDA-07 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 INR-07 IO-13 L-03
NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0854

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, ETRD, UK
SUBJECT: AUTOMOTIVE NOISE CONTROL

REF: (A) STATE 12398; (B) LONDON 2279

1. ELKINS AND THOMAS OF EPA GAVE EXCELLENT PRESENTATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NOISE CONTROL ACT OF 1972 (REFTELS) AT EMBASSY FEB. 21 TO GROUP OF 18 REPRESENTING ALL MAJOR AUTO PRODUCERS IN UK AS WELL AS DEPT. OF INDUSTRY AND DEPT. OF TRADE. PRESENTATION AND QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD WHICH CONTINUED FOR ABOUT FOUR HOURS WAS WELL RECEIVED BY UK ATTENDEES.

2. EPA REPS STRESSED POINT THAT NOISE CONTROL STANDARDS WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO BE APPLIED TO AUTOS SOLD IN THE US IN NEXT SEVERAL YEARS COULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON SMALL, EUROPEAN CARS WHICH ARE INHERENTLY NOISIER THAN LARGER VEHICLES. THEY POINTED OUT THAT SINCE US AUTO MANUFACTURERS ARE NOW AT DESIGN STAGE FOR GROUP OF SMALLER VEHICLES, THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO INCORPORATE NOISE CONTROL FEATURES INTO THEIR NEW MODELS AT LESS COST THAN EUROPEANS WOULD LIKELY ENCOUNTER IN TRYING TO MODIFY EXISTING DESIGNS. THIS POSSIBLE COST DIFFERENCE TO
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PAGE 02 LONDON 03005 221753Z

COMPLY WITH EVENTUAL US AUTO NOISE STANDARDS COULD BE SEEN BY EUROPEANS AS A NON-TARRIF BARRIER TO TRADE IN MOTOR VEHICLES. THE EPA REPS EMPHASIZED THAT ANY ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE US TO CONTROL AUTO NOISE WILL BE BASED ENTIRELY ON THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE 1972 NOISE CONTROL ACT TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF US CITIZENS. THEY MADE CLEAR THAT EPA WAS IN NO WAY INVOLVED IN THE

PROMOTION OR PROTECTION OF US INDUSTRY.

3. COMMENTS: THE EPA PRESENTATION AT THIS EARLY STAGE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AUTO NOISE STANDARDS WAS VERY USEFUL. EVENTUAL US AUTO NOISE STANDARDS COULD HAVE AT LEAST AS GREAT AN IMPACT ON EUROPEAN CAR MANUFACTURERS WHO SELL IN THE US AS THE US AUTO EMISSION STANDARDS HAVE HAD. WE BELIEVE EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO KEEP THE EUROPEANS COMPLETELY INFORMED OF US ACTIONS AS THE NEW STANDARDS ARE DEVELOPED TO AVOID AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE COMPLAINTS THAT US STANDARD SETTING IS UNDERTAKEN TO LIMIT COMPETITION FROM FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Sent Date: 22-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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SAS ID: 3266530
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUTOMOTIVE NOISE CONTROL
TAGS: SENV, ETRD, UK, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
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